Accelerated Bridge Program Letter of Transmittal

| MASSITUTION | Date: 9/24/09 Project File No:603654 Contract No. PARS/E.W.O. No: H604007 Re: B16-163. Boston Morton Street over MBTA RR | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| —— JHIGHWAY | | | |
| 10 PARK PLAZA, BOSTON, MA 02116 | | | |
| To: City Clerk | | | |
| 1 City Hall Square, Room 601 | | | |
| Boston, MA 02201-2014 | N. E. I. A. I | | |
| Attention: Rosaria Salerno | ☐ Federal Aid☐ Non-Federal Aid☐ FA Oversight☐ Non-NHS Roadway | | |
| Method: | NHS Roadway ☐ Highway Project | | |
| Attached are the following: | ☐ Bridge Project ☐ Multiuse/Bike Path | | |
| Quantity <u>Description</u> | Enhancement | | |
| 1 Public Hearing Transcript | | | |
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| These are transmitted as checked below: | | | |
| For Approval For Review and comment | | | |
| Traffic Review (if applicable): Regulations | ation Score with all review comments. (Directive E-98-001) Lighting Safety Management Signs Signals | | |
| Consultant: FST Contact | t: Erîk Vilmunen Ad Date: Jan 2, 2010 | | |
| Remarks: Enclosed is the transcript for our Public Hearing held on April 22 2009. | | | |
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| | | | |
| Signature: West Hole | Title: Project Manager | | |
| Signature: Matt Hopkinson | Title: Project Manager Phone Number: (617) 973- 8193 | | |

NOTE: Please address all return correspondence to Shoukry Elnahal, P.E., Director Accelerated Bridge Program. Also, please include the Project File Number and Project Manager. name in the subject heading.

MassHighway
Design Public Hearing

April 22, 2009 6:30 PM

Mildred Avenue Community Center

5 Mildred Avenue

Mattapan, Massachusetts

Bridge Replacement
Morton Street over MBTA & CSX Railroad
Project File No. 603654
Bridge No. B-16-163

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Massachusetts Highway Department

MassHighway Design Public Hearing April 22, 2009

PROCEEDINGS

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VICTORIA SHEEHAN: Good evening ladies and gentleman. My name is Victoria Sheehan. I am the Project Manager for the project being presented this evening. I am assigned to the Bridge Section of the Projects Division which is located at MassHighway's headquarters in Boston. I was directed by Chief Engineer, Frank Tramontozzi to conduct tonight's hearing.

Once the hearing is complete this evening the attendance sheet will become part of the public record for the hearing. If you would like your attendance at this hearing to be part of the public record, please sign in on the sign-in sheet located on the table at the back of the room. Handouts containing details regarding this project are also next to the sign-in sheet.

First, I would like to introduce the members of tonight's Hearing panel. First we have Matt Hopkinson from our Bridge Section in Boston. Our Right-of-Way representative is Michael Rudamon. Eric Vilmunen from Fay, Spofford & Thorndike MassHighway's design consultant for this project and our transcriptionist this evening is Tammy Hillery from Arlington Typing and mailing, Arlington, MA. Tammy will be making a verbatim transcript of tonight's

MassHighway Design Public Hearing April 22, 2009 hearing. We will commence the formal part of the hearing by having Matt read the Notice of Hearing.

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MATT HOPKINSON: The Commonwealth of
Massachusetts, Massachusetts Highway Department, Notice of
a Public Hearing. Project number 603654. The design
public hearing will be held by MassHighway to discuss the
proposed Morton Street Bridge Replacement Project over the
MBTA and the CSX Railroads for the City of Boston. Where:
Mildred Avenue Community Center, 5 Mildred Avenue,
Mattapan, Massachusetts, 02126. When: Wednesday April 22,
2009 at 6:30 P.M.

The purpose of this hearing is to Purpose: provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed project. All views and comments made at this hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible. Proposal: The work under this project consist of replacement of bridge number B-16-163 which carries Morton Street over the MBTA and CSX Railroads. The work will include complete replacement of the superstructure and construction of new abutments in front of the existing abutments and behind the The existing piers will be demolished. existing piers. The new bridge will be a single span continuous steel stringer superstructure composite with a concrete deck.

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The bridge will be built in stages to maintain traffic throughout the duration of the construction.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project acquisitions and fee in permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is responsible for acquiring all necessary rights in private or public lands. MassHighway's policy concerning land acquisitions will be discussed at this hearing.

Written views received by MassHighway subsequent to the date of this notice and up to five days prior to the date of the hearing shall be displayed for public inspection and copying at the time and date listed above. Plans will be on display one half hour before the hearing begins, with an engineer in attendance to answer questions regarding this project. The project handout is available on the MassHighway website listed below.

Written statements and other exhibits in place of, or in addition to, oral statements made at the public hearing regarding the proposed undertaking are to be submitted to Frank A. Tramontozzi, P.E. Chief Engineer, Massachusetts Highway Department, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, Massachusetts, 02116. Such submissions will also be accepted at the hearing. The final date for the receipt of

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these statements and exhibits for inclusion in the public hearing transcript will be ten days after the public hearing.

The Community has declared that this facility is accessible to all in compliance with the ADA/Title II. However, persons in need of ADA Title II accommodations should contact Angela Rudikoff by phone at 617-973-7024, TTDY 617-973-7306 or to email angela.rudikoff@eot.state.ma.us. Requests must be made at least ten days prior to the date of the public hearing.

In case of inclement weather hearing cancelation announcements will be posted on the MassHighway website http://www.mass.gov/mhd.

Luisa Paiewonsky, Commissioner; Frank A. Tramontozzi, P.E. Chief Engineer, Boston, Massachusetts.

VICTORIA SHEEHAN: Thank you, Matt. This notice appeared in the Boston Herald on April 8, 2009 and April 15, 2009. Also in the Hyde Park Tribune on April 2, 2009 and April 9, 2009. The purpose of the hearing; Page three of the handout explains the purpose of the hearing. The hearing gives us an opportunity to make a formal presentation of the proposed project at the same time it allows us to record your input regarding the project.

Construction funding for this project is

MassHighway Design Public Hearing April 22, 2009 currently identified as federal aid funding with the Federal Highway Administration funding 80% of the total construction cost and MassHighway funding the remaining 20%. This project must be programmed in the state wide transportation improvement program in the appropriate Federal Fiscal year in order for MassHighway to post the bids for eventual construction.

The total estimated cost of this project is four million six hundred and nineteen thousand. This does not include any right-of-way acquisition costs. The designs are expected to be completed in the winter of 2010 and construction is expected to be completed within 24 months.

At this time I will ask Michael to explain the right-of-way procedure.

MICHAEL GRUTTERMAN: Thank you, Vikki. Good evening my name is Michael Grutterman and I represent the Right-of-Way Bureau of Massachusetts Highway department. The Right-of-Way Bureau is responsible for acquiring all the necessary rights in private and public lands for the design construction and implementation of this project. Affected property owners will be contacted by personnel from the Right-of-Way Bureau or consultants representing the Massachusetts Highway Department.

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The procedures used must comply with State and Federal regulations governing the acquisition process. The current 25 % design plan indicates that a yet to be determined number of fee takings and permanent easements may or will be required. Other areas will also require temporary construction easements. Affected property owner rights are protected under our Massachusetts General Laws primarily Chapter 79. If the project is receiving Federal funds the property owner's rights are further defined under title III of the Real Property Acts of 1970 as amended.

I will be happy to answer any general questions regarding right-of-way activities during the open forum for questions and I will be available after this public hearing for any specific questions you may have.

VICTORIA SHEEHAN: Thank you, Michael. I will ask Eric Vilmunen of Fay, Spofford & Thorndike to describe MassHighway's project in detail for you. I ask that you hold your questions until he completes his presentation.

ERIC VILMUNEN: Good evening everyone. My name is Eric Vilmunen with Fay, Spofford & Thorndike. I will start off by giving a description of the existing bridge and some of the dimensions. The bridge was originally built in 1919 and reconstructed in 1977 and it currently consists of three simple spans which are pre-stressed

MassHighway Design Public Hearing April 22, 2009 concrete adjacent deck beams with a hot mix asphalt overlay.

In 1977 the bridge reconstruction involved replacing the original superstructure with the present concrete deck beam superstructure. The bridge consist of seventeen AASHTO type S-11-48 pre-stressed concrete deck beams and one AASHTO type S-11-36 pre-stressed concrete deck beams. The substructure consists of two reinforced concrete abutments and two reinforced concrete piers.

The present roadway surface is 5 inch thick hot mix asphalt pavement and that is based on the February 2000 inspection report and a curb reveal is 9 inches. The approach span lengths are about 20 1/2 feet between the center line barring and the main span is 35 feet between the center line barring. The existing roadway width is 56 feet curb to curb which consists of four twelve foot lanes and two four foot shoulders.

There are two sidewalks on each side of the bridge at 10 foot 7 inch north sidewalk and an 8 foot 4 inch south sidewalk. The skew angle of the bridge is 14 degrees. It also has type 8-3 ridge railing and protective screens that are mounted on both sidewalks.

The pre-stressed concrete beams are in good condition with minor cracking in several locations. The

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abutments and piers exhibit signs of deterioration in
several locations. There are large areas of spalls at both
abutments and piers and based on the latest inspection
report the bridge sub-structure has a rating of four.

Moving on to the proposed bridge improvements I noticed in the handout on the back of page four the proposed bridge improvements -- I will just read this. There are some changes that have happened since this was typed up.

The proposed improvements will upgrade the load carrying capacity of the crossing from an HS 20 design truck to HS 25, we since have gone and we are going to do LRFD design which is load resistance factor design based on an HL 93 truck loading which is an HS 20 design truck with lane loading. So that is the difference in that first sentence.

The next one, the proposed bridge will be a single span continuous steel stringer superstructure composite with an 8 3/4" high performance concrete deck slab. The proposed vertical clearance to the railroad tracks at the critical point will remain at 18'-1 3/4".

The curb-to-curb width will be maintained at the existing 56 feet and the roadway will remain with four 12' lanes and two 4' shoulders. The sidewalks on each side

MassHighway Design Public Hearing April 22, 2009 of the bridge will remain the same. The north side walk will be 10' 9" wide and the south sidewalk will be 8' 4" wide. In addition on the north sidewalk there will be a 32" traffic barrier which will be a curb type wall type curb.

The proposed utilities will be housed in the utility bays between the stringers and additionally there will be a permanent utility bridge on the south side of the bridge which will relocate some of the other utilities including a 30" MWRA water main, a 12" Boston Water and Sewer water main and a 12" gas main. The other utilities are intended to be located in the utility bays underneath the stringers.

There will be a CP-PL2 barrier on the south side of the bridge with protective screening and on the outside of the north sidewalk there will be just a protective screening. The last sentence; the existing piers will be demolished and new abutments will be located in front with existing abutments. The last sentence is changed from what is written in there it should read; the abutments will be cast and place wall type with spread footings founded on bed rock.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Cast and place what type?

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ERIC VILMUNEN: Cast and place wall type with spread footings founded on bed rock. That is an overview of the existing bridge and the proposed bridge improvements.

VICTORIA SHEEHAN: Thank you, Eric. The plans presented this evening are not complete. The next step will be to review the comments received this evening and then amend and complete the plans for advertising and eventual construction. Before we open the hearing to you I will explain the hearing procedures. First as stated previously the purpose of this hearing is to solicit your input regarding the project.

As the plans are not yet complete we may not be able to answer all of your questions or respond to all of your comments at this time. Next we ask that anybody who wishes to have his or her comments entered into the official hearing transcript please stand up, identify yourself by name and affiliation whether you are an abutter, a local official or concerned citizen and please spell your last name. This is necessary in order for us to obtain a full verbatim transcript that is required by law.

Also the last sheet of the handout is a mail in sheet. If you have any questions or comments that you would like to submit in writing please use the sheet for

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that purpose. You may leave the sheet with me this evening or you may mail it to the department within ten days of this date and it will also become part of the official record.

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Finally, it is normal procedure to ask elected officials to offer their comments first. Are there any federal, state or local officials who would like to speak at this time? If there are no comments hen this hearing is official open to the public and we welcome your questions and comments.

DAN HARDAWAY: Hello my name is Dan Hardaway, I'm the president of the Morton Street Board of Commerce and also, I own a business right there called Final Touch with Class. My last name is spelled H-A-R-D-A-W-A-Y. How long is this construction going to be? I'm kind of late coming, so I missed out on some of the information that the gentleman was explaining. My second question would be are you tearing the whole bridge apart or are you breaking it down part way and how is the traffic going to affect the whole area?

ERIK VILMUNEN: The estimated construction duration right now is two years. This is a diagram of the different stages that we have right now. We have four stages. So the construction is plans that will start from

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the south side of the bridge and work our way northward and that is to accommodate the utilities on the bridge and move them to a utility bridge on the south side of the bridge.

So the work will start on the south side and work its way up and we're using three lanes so we can reduce the construction variations as much as possible. The less stages the less the construction will be.

So this here — the orange is the construction area. The lighter orange is our work zone and the yellow area is the travel lanes and the blue is the existing structure. SO the intended work we are going to have is we are going to build the abutments before the lanes start shifting so we can get a good portion of the construction done. So we will build that underneath the bridge first up to a certain level.

On this here you can see the abutments. They are being located between the existing piers and the existing abutment and we can construct that out to a certain level and that will -- in the construction as they start the demolition they can quickly put in beams. Then they will fill in behind here and the construction will go all the way across and then at the last stage they will demolish the piers.

Going back here to stage two after this green

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area is the newly constructed portion of the bridge. Lanes
will be shifted onto there and the construction will be in
between the roadway, the existing structure and the
proposed structure. The same thing happens as we step
across into stage three and stage four until we get to the
final area over here where we can finish up construction.
At this point it is going to demolish the piers. That is
the over view of the construction staging.

JOHN MICHALAK: Do you want me to talk about the traffic?

ERIC VILMUNEN: Yeah.

JOHN MICHALAK: So as part of our study we were trying to find a way to reduce the length of construction required for the project. Sorry my name is John Michalak, I'm also with Fay, Spofford & Thorndike. We did traffic counts on the corridor and analyzed the existing traffic patterns and found that if we could reduce the lanes to three lanes during construction we would actually save two years of construction. Trying to maintain the four lanes that are out there today the work zone would be so small it would take so much longer to construct the project.

We basically have 44,000 vehicles out here per day by today's counts projected in ten years it will be about 45,000 vehicles per day. The heavier traffic during

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the peak hour and the peak hour's occur during 7:30 and
8:30 AM when the traffic is heaviest traveling west bound.
You get basically 1,200 to 1,300 vehicles in that one hour and it is slightly less traveling east bound and that peak hour occurs between five o'clock and six o'clock PM.

In looking at the layout of the road the slightly heavier volume traveling west bound during the AM morning commute and the vicinity of the intersection at Norfolk Street there is a heavy amount of traffic that turns left onto Norfolk Street. A 163 vehicles during the AM peak and approximately 242 vehicles during the PM peak and there is less turning movement happening at the signalized intersections, Evans Street.

So we met with the City of Boston Traffic
Division a couple of times and talked over the alternatives
and decided that this will provide the biggest benefit
during the AM peak hour during the AM commute while
maintaining the two lanes traveling westbound. Usually the
PM peak hours spread out usually over a longer time period
than the AM. The AM is usually more concentrated. There
are more vehicles during that single hour. That is what we
used as a basis for developing two lanes traveling west
bound and maintaining one lane traffic eastbound.

DAN HARDAWAY: You are talking about doing this

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construction during the day time? Is there any way you
can do the construction during the night time? To

basically accommodate the whole community instead of having
the traffic all backed up. At night time there is less

traffic at that time and also it doesn't affect the retail
district.

JOHN MICHALAK: The traffic management that goes into place will have to be a permanent condition.

Usually to delineate the travel patterns in the lanes rather than have them changing on a nightly and daily basis especially with the work zone since it involves bridge construction.

This work zone -- each of these work zones will be separated with concrete barriers so that the work zone will be isolated from the traffic, from the pedestrians and will be maintaining the pedestrian access at least on one side of the road throughout construction and that will be separated with concrete barriers, so it wouldn't be feasible to try and move that and just do the work at night.

DAN HARDAWAY: The other question would be, when you are doing the construction of the bridge are you having in your plans to put lights on the bridge, so it will be more visible to the people as they cross? Right

MassHighway Design Public Hearing April 22, 2009 now there are no lights and the lights that are there are at the end of the bridge, so it is dark coming across.

JOHN MICHALAK: I don't think that is part of the project at this time. It hasn't been suggested.

DAN HARDAWAY: I would strongly suggest that if you are looking to redo the whole bridge that that is a very important area. What we have done on Morton Street, we had to have NSTAR come back to put brighter lights and try and brighten it up over there. If you are walking over the bridge it is extremely dark. If you go there now and walk it it is not safe for a person to walk in that area at night time.

JOHN MICHALAK: If that is a concern I would definitely say to write that down and submit that to the state so they --

DAN HARDAWAY: Say that again.

JOHN MICHALAK: I would recommend writing your comments down also and submitting then to the state so that they can evaluate that as well.

VICTORIA SHEEHAN: If you want to make a note on the hand out and hand it to me this evening I will be happy to have that recorded and it will be part of the official hearing transcript.

DAN HARDAWAY: Okay. So it is very important

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because you have the MBTA Station that is a brand new station there and they have brand new lights and things, so you basically want to have the whole area as a new look for the future. And if you are talking about trying to deal with the traffic well then going from 44 to 45 thousand, so it would be very important that you put those lights up there instead of somebody coming back in the future and trying to get this done. It is a really big task to recharge and while we are catching it now so it will be implemented into the budget.

VICTORIA SHEEHAN: We appreciate your comments and we are here to solicit your input, so we thank you for any additional input that you have.

RUSSELL HOLMES: I have a quick one. Russell Holmes, Mattapan resident. My quick question is can you quickly walk back through the Evans Street piece. Why east bound instead of west. You said by Evans Street there is a left hand taken I'm not sure what you meant.

JOHN MICHALAK: There is not as many turning vehicles. We have as you travel west bound towards Norfolk Street --

RUSSELL HOLMES: So people taking a left on Norfolk?

JOHN MICHALAK: There are a lot of left turns

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there, so we thought it would be best to maintain the two
lanes traveling towards that signal and also since that is
heavier in the morning.

RUSSELL HOLMES: Okay, no problem. I just wanted to make sure that is what you are saying?

JOHN MICHALAK: Those are the two.

MARY BURKE: Mary Burke resident and Mattapan Civic Improvement Association Board Member. You are not recommending that you fair any traffic through Evans and those side streets, are you?

JOHN MICHALACK: There won't be any planned detour, no.

MAY BURKE: Okay, cool.

VICTORIA SHEEHAN: Any other questions?

GEORGIANNA POWELL: I have tried to visualize the area, is that near where the old police station is?

ERIK VILMUNEN: Yes. That is right here in the corner. Then Evan Street is right here and Norfolk is just off of that.

GEORGIANA POWELL: One of the things like when I take the T -- excuse me my name is Georgiana Powell, a Mattapan resident. One of the things is when I take the T to go to Norfolk Hardware and maybe this is beyond where you are talking about, but there is an awful lot of traffic

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there. It is a huge intersection there where the Fire
Station is and Norfolk goes this way and then the road
bears off the left where the T goes down that route to
Ashmont Station, the number 21 bus. There is an extreme
flow of traffic, so I was wondering if that is going to be
included in your plans for the flow of traffic.

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JOHN MICHALAK: We just counted what was traveling over the bridge on either side of the bridge by counting only what was happening only at Evans Street and Norfolk Street, so we are just concerned with traffic that goes over the bridge. This project only extends about a 150' on either side of the bridge just to tie into the roadway.

VICTORIA SHEEHAN: Any other questions or comments? If there are no other questions or comments I would like to remind you that the last sheet of the handout is a mail in sheet. If you have any further questions or comments that you would like to submit please use the sheet for that purpose. You may leave the sheet with me this evening or you may mail it to the department within 10 days of this date and it will become part of the official record.

Before I close the hearing I would like to say that we will be here for as long as you are interested in looking at the plans. We will try to respond to questions that affect you personally. Thank you very much for

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attending and thank you to the Mildred Ave Community Center

for providing this meeting space. I declare this hearing

closed and the time is 7:00 PM.

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CERTIFICATE

I, Tammy A. Hillery, do hereby certify that the foregoing record is a true and accurate transcription of the proceedings in the above-captioned matter to the best of my skill and ability.

Tammy A Hillery



Public Hearing Attendance Sheet

DATE:

April 22, 2009

TIME: 6:30 p.m. LOCATION: Mildred Avenue Community Center

SUBJECT:

Boston -

Morton Street over the MBTA & CSX (B-16-163)

Project File No. 603654

| NAME | <u>AFFILIATION</u> | TELEPHONE |
|------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|
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